



# bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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October 12, 2012

Agenda Item #3c

To: Governing Board, SMBRC

From: Shelley Luce, Executive Director

Subject: Proposition 12 Funding For Abalone Cove Reserve Restoration

**Action Requested of the Governing Board:**

- Recommend State Coastal Conservancy approval of funding of \$68,000 for the Abalone Cove Reserve Restoration Project (Proposition 12)

**Applicant: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC)**

**Project Title: Abalone Cove Reserve Restoration Project**

**Requested Amount: \$68,000**

**Summary:**

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) is a nonprofit land conservancy providing land conservation and management on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The SMBRC previously funded two successful projects implemented by the PVPLC:

- Restoration of four acres of coastal bluff scrub habitat at Point Vincente fishing access,
- Restoration of five acres coastal scrub and trail improvements at McCarrell's Canyon in the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve.

This project proposes to increase the ecological value of Abalone Cove Reserve by restoring and enhancing five acres of southern coastal scrub and coastal sage scrub over a period of two years. The project is on the SMBRC Bond Funding Priority list that was presented to the Governing Board at the August 2012 meeting.

**Background and Project Description:**

The project is located within the 64-acre Abalone Cove State Ecological Reserve and is an important coastal ecological resource for the Los Angeles Region. In addition, a portion of the California Coastal Trail will traverse the Reserve. Abalone Cove supports several important habitat types such as Southern coastal bluff scrub, coastal sage scrub and coastal cactus scrub. The Reserve provides habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher, federally listed as "threatened," and the coastal cactus wren, whose numbers are currently in decline.

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Encroachment by several species of non-native plants (black mustard, fennel, iceplant, and acacia) is threatening the ecological health of the native vegetation on the bluffs. Additionally, informal trails are creating erosion and sedimentation problems along the coastal bluffs.

Requested funding will support the following activities:

- PVPLC staff and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps will manually remove non-native vegetation from four acres of coastal sage scrub habitat and one acre of Southern California coastal scrub.
- Close and repair areas where informal trails are damaging coastal bluff habitat
- Propagation of native plants, with the assistance of college interns, using local genetic sources, at the Conservancy-operated native plant nursery
- Installation of native vegetation throughout the site. Partial plant palette includes: Woolly sea-blite (*Suaeda taxifolia*), bright green dudleya (*Dudleya virens*), San Diego coastal creeper (*Aphanisma blittoides*), South Coast Saltbush (*Atriplex pacifica*), Santa Catalina Island desert-thorn (*Lycium brevipes var hassei*)
- Native vegetation maintenance during establishment period
- SMBRC / Coastal Conservancy required signage

The Technical Advisory Committee reviewed this project at its September 19, 2012 meeting and recommended funding of the project.

**Budget:**

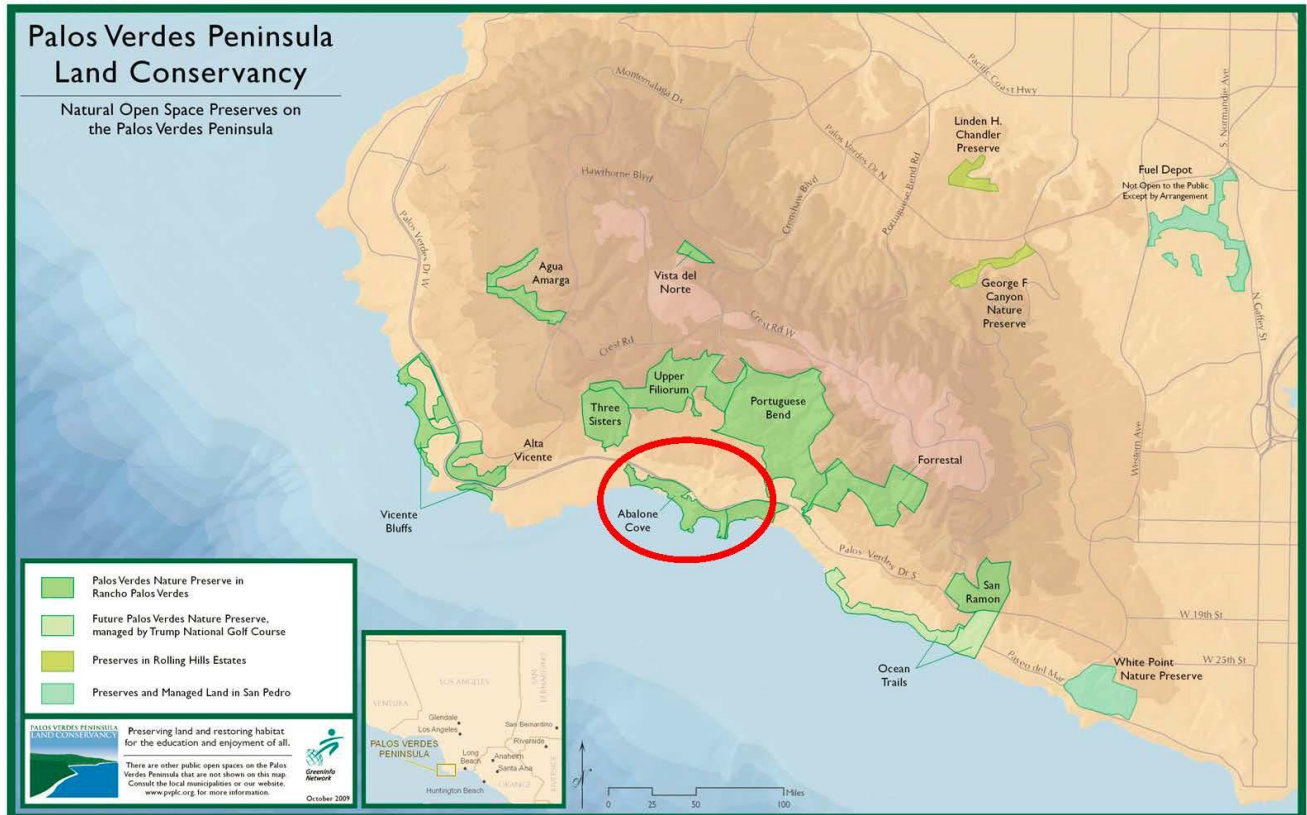
<b>Project Management, permits, reporting</b>	<b>\$3,360.00</b>
<b>Pre-installation invasive removal</b>	<b>\$10,800.00</b>
<b>Plant propagation and installation</b>	<b>\$40,200.00</b>
<b>Vegetation maintenance</b>	<b>\$13,140.00</b>
<b>Sign production and installation</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$68,000.00</b>



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## Project Location:

Figure 1. Vicinity Map.



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